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Traffic Management Center Gets Green Light

A motorist's dream of driving several miles on major City streets without hitting a red light is closer to reality in Sugar Land, thanks to the efforts of the Traffic Management Center. Since 2002, Sugar Land has been developing this centralized "command center" for citywide traffic operations. The TMC recently reached a significant goal of completely integrating the signal system, providing remote management of the City's 67 traffic signals.

"The Traffic Management Center allows us to use technology to help the City meet the challenges of a growing traffic demand," said Mike Leech, Public Works assistant director. "We are able to facilitate a smooth flow of traffic during heavy times such as rush hours. And we are able to assist emergency response teams before, during and after major traffic collisions."

Personnel can control traffic devices and vehicular transportation from the



Traffic Management Center staff use camera and computer images to facilitate a smooth flow of traffic and assist emergency response teams.

center's location in the Public Works Department.

The system sends a text message to traffic staff of any malfunctions with the signal system, such as a power loss or if a signal is not in step with the others it has been designed to communicate with. In many cases, staff are able to fix the problem from the TMC rather than dispatching someone to the site.

Thirteen cameras that TMC staff use to manage traffic

congestion and public safety incidents are located along the City's busiest corridors, including Dulles Avenue, State Highway 6, Williams Trace Boulevard, Lexington Boulevard, West Airport Boulevard and Sweetwater Boulevard. Sugar Land is the first city in the area to use traffic cameras along its major streets. Other agencies, including the Texas Department of Transportation



DEAR RESIDENTS



Allen Bogard
City Manager

While two recent hurricanes impacted Sugar Land in different ways, both brought out the best in the community and City employees.

Hurricane Katrina and its flood aftermath reminded us how we need to help each other through difficult times. Sugar Land residents' reaching out to help the storm evacuees proves this beyond any doubt.

I want to thank every resident who opened their homes and hearts to the displaced families that arrived in Fort Bend County. Red Cross and private shelters were established, and food and clothing donation drives were organized.

When our community saw a greater need for evacuees, Mayor David Wallace brought together residents and corporate, community and faith-based leaders to discuss solutions. The result was the Fort Bend Hurricane Resource Center, established at the former Sugar Land City

Hall. The center provided information, medical care and other services. On a daily basis, about 75 trained professionals and resident volunteers helped an average of 500 evacuees. Approximately 2,200 children were enrolled in Fort Bend ISD and private schools in Sugar Land.

As the Texas Coast braced for Hurricane Rita, City staff moved to a high state of readiness with personnel securing City facilities and planning for any potential damage and recovery that might be necessary with what we initially believed to be a Category 4 hurricane. Over a 24-hour period, several hundred City employees mobilized. The City's Emergency Operations Center was activated along with the Incident Command Center, which prepares for, responds to and manages recovery operations for emergency situations.

Police personnel helped manage evacuation traffic. Staff assisted with the unprecedented charter flights using Sugar Land Regional Airport and the establishment of a shelter for essential employees.

Residents were updated using an emergency hotline with a prerecorded message, a staffed phone bank, updates on the City's Web site and SLtv16 and two reverse 9-1-1 messages (see page 11). The phone bank provided a "check on me" list for the disabled and elderly. Nearly 800 residents called before and after Hurricane Rita for information on topics such as evacuation plans, power outages and fuel supplies.

Sugar Land was spared the full wrath of Hurricane Rita. Following the 30-40 mile-per-hour winds we did receive, Police, Fire and Public Works personnel worked through the night to remove fallen trees, staff traffic signals without power and respond to 9-1-1 calls. The City also assisted in recovery of utilities and damage assessment.

While I believe our City was prepared, we did learn some lessons and we are moving to further strengthen our preparedness training and communications capabilities with residents. We also learned we need to improve emergency power capabilities at City buildings and provide better shelter for essential employees.

Our citizens and our resources have been strongly tested this fall. Over the years, Sugar Land has worked diligently on its extensive emergency preparedness efforts. This program has been aided with over \$1.6 million in Homeland Security Program and other grants to improve interoperability communications, hazardous material response and mutual aid agreements (see page 11). These priorities are consistent with Homeland Security priorities.

Most important, City personnel working in tandem with residents who know and understand emergency preparedness procedures can successfully manage emergency situations.

Sincerely,

SUGAR LAND GOALS 2004-2009

Well-planned community
Safest city in the area
Strong local economy
Responsible city government
Mobility for people
Livable neighborhoods

CITY COUNCIL

David G. Wallace
Mayor

Thomas Abraham
At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong
At-Large Position Two

Dennis C. Parmer
Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley
Single Member District Two
Mayor Pro Tem

Russell C. Jones
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

David Ellison
Assistant City Manager

Karen Glynn
Interim Assistant City Manager

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Traffic Management (continued from page 1)

and TranStar, use traffic cameras only along freeways.

TMC staff are able to view live images of a situation (not license plates or individuals) and then effectively dispatch the proper apparatus to the scene.

"The center has significantly improved our ability to manage vehicular accidents. Because we are able to see the scene before the first emergency responders arrive, the appropriate personnel and equipment can be dispatched. This saves time and personnel resources and improves the efficiency of the emergency team response," Leech said.

"The TMC shortens the amount of time it takes to clear the roadway of a traffic collision because we have

visible information about the accident sooner than ever before. The ability to quickly clear the roadway benefits every person who drives on Sugar Land roadways."

Additionally, TMC's ability to remotely manage the traffic signal system assists police officers at the scene by facilitating and managing detour routes during a public safety incident. The TMC has the ability to remotely activate the timing of traffic signals to provide for the efficient management of motorists who are stuck in traffic due to a public safety incident.

The camera images serve as real-time confirmation that the congestion is clearing.

Camera images have just enough resolution for staff to see vehicles but not enough



Cameras provide images with enough resolution to see vehicle shapes but not enough to read license plates or identify individuals.

to read license plates or identify people. Images are not recorded.

Despite the sophistication of the TMC system, staff will continue to work to improve its performance.

"Traffic is dynamic and ever-changing. We will continue to make improvements and strive to meet the high expectations of our community," Leech said.



COMMERCE



Airport Terminal Taking Off

Construction of Sugar Land Regional Airport's new 19,777-square-foot terminal is progressing, with completion expected in spring 2006. With the roof structure in place and the facades well under way, residents can see its resemblance to a Texas ranch

house. The terminal will provide enhanced amenities to serve the needs of the airport's growing number of corporate aviation users. The project is funded by airport revenues and a Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division grant.

Economic Development Incentives

Sugar Land has had many economic development successes — from the City's new \$200 million award-winning Town Square complex to numerous office, commercial and light industrial projects either planned or under way. In recent months, Tramontina USA, Thermo Electron, Schlumberger, Yokagawa Corp., SCA Engineers, First Colony Mall, Sunoco Logistics and Industrial Information Resources have all announced plans to locate or expand in Sugar Land.

Quality developers, the City's progressive approach to development and

proactive efforts to invest in public/private partnerships are helping to drive economic growth.

Business incentives are one of many factors considered in a business's site selection decision. Other factors include location in relation to their customers and suppliers, availability to a workforce, tax rate, mobility and access, available utility infrastructure, as well as quality-of-life issues. Wisely used, incentives are the leveling factor that can attract projects to a city. Sugar Land has been successful and wise in the application of economic

development incentives.

For years, Sugar Land has used tax abatements as its main economic development incentive. The City recently developed a direct business incentive program that allows it to attract national companies. The new program is funded from the Sugar Land Development Corporation. The SLDC is funded by a one-quarter of one-cent sales tax collected for economic development purposes. By state law, funds can be used only for economic development activities and not for general City operations.

Using direct incentives, Sugar Land has been able to

attract national and international companies like Thermo Electron, Industrial Information Resources and Sunoco Logistics. The City looked at the direct value the company would bring from capital investment, job creation and other elements of the business operation, as well as the cost of providing services. Incentive packages were crafted that ensured that the City could attract the company while receiving a direct benefit in excess of any incentive provided. The table below provides a comparison of incentives given these three companies and benefits Sugar Land will receive.

RECENT DIRECT BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROJECTS

		THERMO ELECTRON	INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION RESOURCES	SUNOCO LOGISTICS
Project	Jobs	257	97	156
	Average wage and benefits	\$68,500	\$91,790	\$87,680
	Capital investment	Approx. \$20 million	Approx. \$3.5 million	Approx. \$3.7 million
City Incentives	Direct Incentive	\$1.3 million	\$400,000	\$500,000
	Tax Abatement	7 years at 90% on building and equipment	7.5 years at 100% on building only	10 years at 50% on building and personal property
Requirements & Benefits	Requirements	Jobs and capital investment	Jobs and capital investment, sales tax and hotel use requirements	Jobs and capital investment, sales tax and hotel use requirements
	City's Estimated Net Return Over 10 Years	\$1.5 million	\$560,000	\$800,000
	Other City Benefits	Hotel occupancy and sales tax revenues from purchases, spin-offs	Hotel occupancy and sales tax revenues from purchases, spin-offs	Hotel occupancy and sales tax revenues from purchases, spin-offs



SLtv16

SLtv16 is Sugar Land's cable access channel available 24 hours a day to Time Warner Cable subscribers. By year end, all residents will be able to view SLtv via the City's Web site.

Programming includes videos and an electronic bulletin board that provide information such as construction updates, public safety programs and leisure class announcements. Videos can be viewed on www.sugarlandtx.gov via the SLtv 16 link.

City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are rebroadcast at these times:

- City Council meetings are shown Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m. and midnight.
- Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are shown Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the same times.

Beginning in early 2006, the Fort Bend ISD Board and Fort Bend County Commissioners Court meetings also will be aired.



Calling All Civic-Minded Students

Are you a Sugar Land resident and a student between the ages of 14 to 18? Are you interested in having a voice in your local government? If so, you are a perfect candidate for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on "Mayor's Youth Advisory Council."



Highway Expansion Continues

Construction continues on two Texas Department of Transportation projects on major Sugar Land highways, with a third project scheduled to begin in early 2006.

Sugar Land drivers can get up to speed on highway construction updates, including construction detours and anticipated scheduling, in several ways. Visit the City's Web site, www.sugarlandtx.gov; click on "Highway Construction Updates" to read more, and subscribe to the City's free electronic news report by selecting "Join E-News." Information is also available on the Highway Hotline (281-276-9959) and on SLtv

16, the City's municipal channel, available to residents who are Time Warner subscribers.

U.S. 59 Expansion — The new frontage roads are under construction between State Highway 6 and the Grand Parkway (State Highway 99).

For the section between Sweetwater and University Boulevards, TxDOT switched traffic from the existing main lanes to the new frontage roads, allowing for construction of the main lane bridge over Ditch H (Bullhead Slough). Dynamic message signs give drivers advanced warning of the construction changes.

TxDOT will reverse the existing configuration —

where U.S. 59 main lanes run underneath the Sweetwater Boulevard and University Boulevard bridges — so that U.S. 59 lanes are above the cross streets. TxDOT expects to begin the reconstruction of these interchanges sometime in 2006. Further information on detours and schedules will be made available as these bridge reconstruction projects draw near.

State Highway 6/U.S. 90A Expansion — U.S. 90A construction from west of State Highway 6 to Ulrich Street is now under way, with eastbound drivers transferred to the new temporary pavement and work progressing along the south side of U.S. 90A.

Drainage and utility work has commenced along State Highway 6 from Brooks Street to north of U.S. 90A. This project will result in State Highway 6 overpasses over University Boulevard and U.S. 90A, with completion expected in late 2007.

U.S. 90A Expansion — TxDOT will expand U.S. 90A from four to eight lanes from U.S. 59 west to Ulrich Street. Pending any unforeseen delays, construction is expected to begin in spring of 2006.



Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Annual Budget Adopted

Sugar Land City Council adopted a \$136 million budget on Sept. 27 for fiscal year 2005-2006 to provide services for an estimated population of 72,026 as of January 2006. The budget provides \$22.8 million for capital improvements and \$23.5 million for the City's two economic development corporations and provides funding for current service needs, development-related activities and selected service enhancements.

The budget is based on a tax rate of 31.711 cents per \$100 value, a reduction of 0.857 cents from the 2004 tax rate. Based on the average residential revaluation increase, homeowners will see a \$10.70, or 1.7 percent, increase in their tax bills. The over-age and disabled persons exemption has been increased 4.4 percent to \$67,727.

In exchange for this modest increase, residents will see increased efforts in key areas, as well as continued investment in infrastructure.

Capital improvement projects funded for fiscal year 2005-2006 include:

- Fire Station 1 reconstruction
- Brazos River Park, Phase I
- Lakeview Drive reconstruction

- Alkire Lake Drive reconstruction
- Traffic signals
 - Austin Parkway at Cross Lakes Drive
 - West Airport Boulevard at Gillingham Lane
 - Jess Pirtle Boulevard at Gillingham Lane
- U.S. 90A ditch improvements

The budget also funds the following:

- A Special Enforcement District for the area including Sugar Land Town Square and First Colony Mall that allows Police to focus on this commercial area and frees

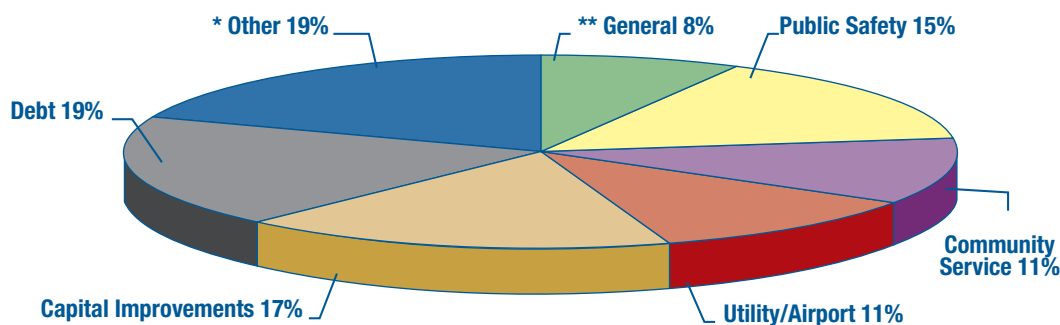
up beat officers to direct their efforts to other areas of the City.

- Additional personnel for permit and inspection activities funded from revenues to be generated from the new development of the 2,018-acre Telfair planned community.
- A position to staff the City's animal shelter to allow improved response to calls and address service needs identified in the 2004 citizen survey.
- Additions to staff and funding for continued efforts to improve drainage and mobility.

- Thirty-eight new positions added include 3.5 at the Sugar Land Regional Airport, three in the Utility Fund and 31.5 in the General Fund, which include four directly related to new development and 12 in the Police Department, nine of which will be funded through a federal grant (see page 10).

Sugar Land's history of prudent financial management helps ensure that residents continue to receive outstanding City services for the tax dollars they pay.

Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget



TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$136 M

* Includes payments for infrastructure reimbursements, insurance coverage, capital replacement, incentive grants and tax rebates to in-City MUDs.

** Includes general government operations and administration such as Human Resources, Finance and Information Technology.

Tax Break Increases for Seniors and Disabled Persons

Sugar Land City Council raised the over-65 and disabled persons exemptions to \$67,727, an increase of \$2,857.

Since 2001, the over-age exemption has increased from \$40,000 to \$67,727, and since 2004, the exemption for disabled persons has increased from \$10,000 to \$67,727. Homeowners may not receive both exemptions, and these exemptions are in addition to the \$5,000 minimum homestead exemption.

To help reduce the tax burden and recognize cost-of-living increases for homeowners on a fixed income, the City's Financial Management Policy Statements provide that:

The City Manager will recommend an increase in the over-age and disabled persons exemption when economic and financial conditions allow. When such conditions exist, the over-age and disabled persons exemption will be increased annually based on the average percent increase in residential revaluation, not to exceed \$100,000.

There are 2,611 households qualifying for over-65 and disabled persons exemptions on the 2005 tax roll.

"The combination of Sugar Land's low tax rate and valuable exemptions provides our seniors and disabled residents with exceptional service at a great value," said City Manager Allen Bogard. "For the fourth consecutive year, senior

citizens will receive an increase in their City property tax exemptions. These exemptions, combined with Sugar Land's \$5,000 minimum homestead exemption, result in tax savings of \$231 for seniors and disabled persons."

A comparison of average property tax bills for seniors in 25 Texas cities in Sugar Land's population range (51,397 to 115,107) was made using the City's average residential value of \$199,926. Using the 2004 tax rates and exemptions offered for each city, Sugar Land has the lowest senior tax bill of \$424. The average tax bill for the 26 cities is \$928.

Two other advantages available to seniors and

disabled homeowners include:

- paying property taxes in four installments, rather than paying taxes in full by Jan. 31 of each year; and
- postponing payment of property taxes for as long as they own and live in their homes.

This does not mean taxes would never be paid, but gives senior citizens and disabled persons the opportunity to continue to live in their homes for as long as needed should they be unable to pay property taxes.

For more information on these options, contact 281-275-2750 or revenue@sugarlandtx.gov.

The Scoop on Capital Improvements

How will the \$23 million for capital improvements be spent starting with our new fiscal year that begin Oct. 1?

The December-January issue of *Sugar Land Today* will provide residents with more details, including a map showing the location of the rehabilitation, additions or upgrades to the City's public infrastructure.

Sugar Land's Online Auction

Did you know that the City of Sugar Land's online auction offers bidders a chance to buy surplus and other items such as vehicles, computer equipment and office furniture?

Click on the "E-Gov" link on www.sugarlandtx.gov and then on "Online Auction" for details on items for sale, registration requirements, payment options and more.

All bidders must be 18 years of age or older.



Sugar Land City Council

Sugar Land was incorporated Dec. 29, 1959 and adopted a home rule form of government on Jan. 17, 1981. Its council/manager form of government provides for seven elected officials who serve two-year terms, with a term limit of four consecutive terms. City Council is comprised of the mayor and two at-large members elected by citizens throughout the City in even years and four district members who are elected from citizens residing in each district (see map) in odd years.

Current City Council members are: David Wallace, Mayor; Thomas Abraham, At Large Position One; Daniel Wong, At Large Position Two; Dennis Parmer, Single Member District One; Cyril Hosley, Single Member District Two and Mayor Pro Tem; Russell Jones, Single Member District Three; and Michael Schiff, Single Member District Four.

City Council is responsible for making policy decisions, enacting ordinances, approving the budget and setting the annual property tax rate. Council appoints the city manager, who acts as the chief executive officer of the government. The city manager carries out policy and administers city programs. All department directors, including the city attorney, police

chief and fire chief, are ultimately responsible to the city manager.

Council meetings are held at Sugar Land City Hall, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Council workshops are held on the fourth Tuesday. Residents are welcome to attend these public meetings in the City Council Chamber on the first floor.

Meetings usually begin with public recognition of individuals or groups, followed by any citizens who desire to address the City Council with regard to matters on the agenda. The number of speakers is limited to the first 10, and each speaker is limited to three minutes.

Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine by the City Council and are enacted as a group by one motion. The items are discussed only if a Council member requests so, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

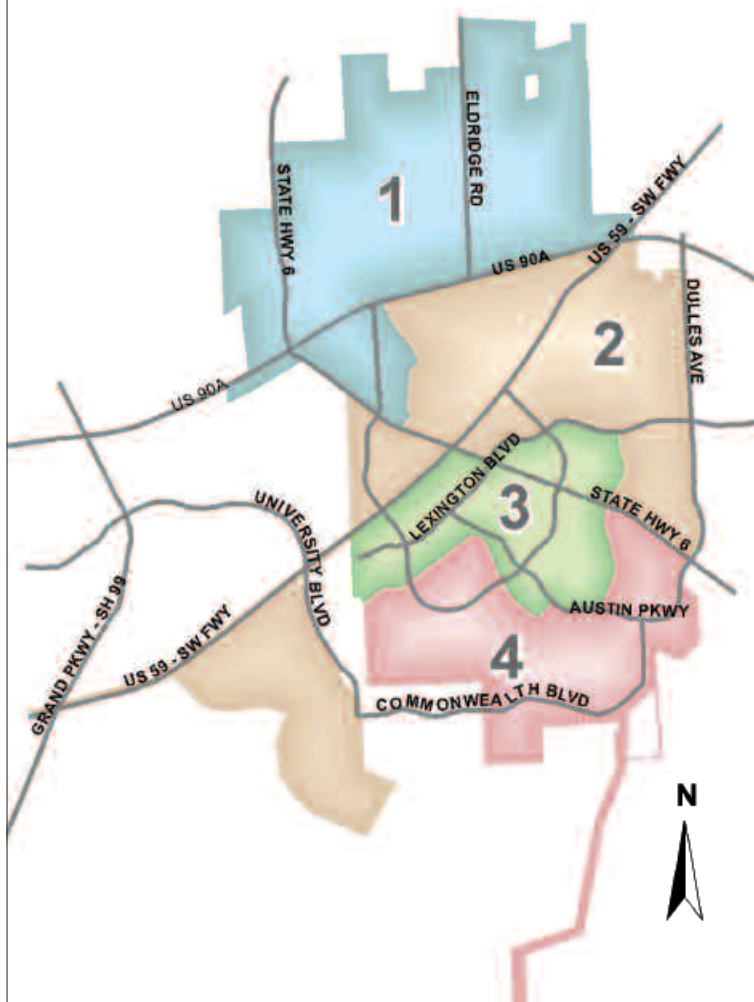
Other sections of a regular Council meeting may include Contracts and Agreements, Ordinances and Resolutions, Public Hearing and City Council and City Manager Reports.

City Council meetings are streamed live on

www.sugarlandtx.gov, and archived meetings also are available on the Web site.

For Time Warner cable subscribers, the meetings are rebroadcast on SLtv 16.

COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICTS



Mayor
David Wallace

At Large Position One
Thomas Abraham

At Large Position Two
Daniel Wong

Single Member District One
Dennis Parmer

Single Member District Two and Mayor Pro Tem
Cyril Hosley

Single Member District Three
Russell Jones

Single Member District Four
Michael Schiff



Development Update

Infrastructure is being constructed in Lake Pointe, a 190-acre mixed-use project at the northeast corner of State Highway 6 and U.S. 59. Approximately 170 patio home, villa-style residence and townhome lots are being platted. Commercial development is occurring along State Highway 6 and the U.S. 59 frontage road.

Construction of streets, utilities and flood hazard

protection is progressing in Telfair, a 2,018-acre master-planned community located between New Territory and First Colony. Initial subdivision plats include approximately 650 single-family residential lots.

Two of four new restaurants are complete in First Colony Mall, with additional parking and retail space to come. The intersection of the outer

ring road and Lexington Boulevard near Dillard's is closed for construction of a parking garage.

Progress continues in Sugar Land Town Square on a six-story office building with approximately 136,600 square feet of office space, 11,000 square feet of retail and a seven-level parking garage. The 48,000-square-foot retail building between City Walk condominiums

and First Colony Mall is also well under way.

Development should begin soon on Riverstone, a mixed-use suburban development of about 2,500 acres in Sugar Land's extraterritorial jurisdiction. This community also extends into Missouri City and its ETJ.

Annexation Agreements Anticipated

Sugar Land is working with boards of municipal utility districts in its extraterritorial jurisdiction to develop strategic partnership agreements. The agreements will outline City services and an annexation plan for each MUD.

City Council policy requires that (1) City services will be provided and funded in an equitable manner that will not increase the cost of services to current residents and (2) that annexation be voluntary and mutually beneficial.

Sugar Land and Municipal Utility District No. 113 (Avalon and Brazos Landing) have entered into a strategic partnership agreement that will result in annexation in December. Other ETJ communities are Greatwood, New Territory, Riverpark and those in the Plantation MUD

(sections of Tara Colony and Tara Plantation).

For some MUDs, service and annexation issues are more complex than others. However, resolving those issues is critical. Sugar Land currently provides fire services to all MUDs in the ETJ through contracts or service agreements. Water and wastewater services are provided to one district. Districts may wish to receive additional or expanded services in the future.

Some key issues in the provision of municipal services are:

- City Council policy on new, renewed or expanded service agreements requires that annexation questions be resolved.
- Long-term services agreements with MUDs allows Sugar Land to plan ahead for facilities in a fiscally

responsible manner.

- Sugar Land has extended services into the ETJ under the assumption that these areas eventually would become part of the City.
- City maintenance of infrastructure in the ETJ will reduce future costs for MUDs.
- Sugar Land and MUDs need to finalize plans for complying with state-mandated subsidence requirements and groundwater reduction plans. Long-term commitments of the districts are critical to designing and implementing the City's surface water conversion program and related facilities.
- Current ETJ fire service agreements were developed separately, at differing times and

under different conditions. The result is varying levels of fire service at varying prices.

- Sugar Land's service levels are equal throughout the community, and the cost and method of paying for services is consistent. Ensuring equitable services and consistent cost recovery means that current and future City residents will receive a consistent level of service for each service provided and will pay equal amounts for those services. In the long term, annexation is the best way to ensure that Sugar Land provides consistent, full municipal services with equitable cost recovery.



Griffith to Build on Police Successes

During his first three months as Sugar Land Police Chief, Steve Griffith has become actively involved in the community through attendance and speaking at community service groups and at the City's district town hall meetings. He carries a strong message on the professionalism of the Sugar Land Police Department.

"Police employees are dedicated to their mission of enhancing the quality of life in Sugar Land," Griffith said.

Griffith's vision includes building a sense of family within the department that keeps Sugar Land one of the area's safest cities. "We want our employees to know they are a special, integral and important part of our City," said Griffith.

SLPD uses a beat accountability model that gives police officers a sense of ownership in their patrol beats, according to Griffith. Sugar Land is divided into four beats, each with a team who work together to identify and resolve particular neighborhood concerns.

Griffith said his department will continue to be the model for other law enforcement agencies to follow. "Our personnel have the confidence and attitude for success in whatever we undertake. The department will continue to use technology to enhance our service and efficiency."

The department is working to continuously improve quality of service. Staff training and development are key issues.

As the City and the department continue to grow, police recruits participate in a six-week internal training academy.

police officers and the establishment of a Special Enforcement District in Sugar Land Town Square.

Police officer visibility and service throughout the community will increase by January 2006 through a \$675,000 U.S. Department of Justice Universal Hiring

encompassing the Town Center area, which was created based on analysis of police service needs in the expanding commercial area. "The new assignments ensure existing patrol officers can remain in their respective beats to efficiently respond



Chief Steve Griffith met Sugar Land residents at the City's District Town Hall meetings. He also is getting acquainted with residents at community service group meetings.

The 240-hour course is designed to help new hires transition from the basic police academy and/or previous police experience to the Sugar Land Police Department.

"The training academy provides recruits with tailored instruction about the specific philosophy and operational practices of the Sugar Land Police Department," said Griffith.

New police initiatives include the addition of

Grant awarded the department to enhance Homeland Security efforts.

"Nine police officers will be hired to supplement staffing and officer deployment in all four City police beats," said Griffith. "The increased staffing will help address a projected 5 percent increase in service calls next year due to normal population growth."

Police officers are assigned to a newly created Special Enforcement District

to residents' needs," said Griffith.

The police department wrapped up 2004 with a 0.2 percent decrease in Part 1 crimes, which are defined as homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and auto theft. Detectives solved 4 percent more Part 1 crime cases in 2004 than in 2003.

Emergency Responders Tie Into SmartZone Network

Sugar Land police officers and firefighters now have upgraded radio equipment that not only improves day-to-day radio communications but also improves coordination with other agencies during emergencies.

First responders are now tied into the SmartZone system, a multisite tower communication system and compatible radio system established to enhance regional interoperability.

The system allows public safety professionals to communicate at the scene with other police officers, firefighters, hazardous material personnel and experts from 462 other SmartZone-participating entities in a 13-county region, including agencies in Harris, Wharton, Montgomery, Liberty, Galveston, Fort Bend and Chambers counties.

Federal and state grant monies support the cost of participating in the Smart Zone system.

New Vehicle Improves Hazardous Material Response

Thanks to federal and state grant funds, Sugar Land firefighters no longer have to rely on the Houston Fire Department's hazardous materials team to assist in a HAZMAT incident, such as a chemical spill on the freeway.

Sugar Land Fire Station 5 will soon be the home of a new, fully equipped HAZMAT vehicle staffed with firefighters who are trained and certified HAZMAT technicians and supported by similarly trained Missouri City and Stafford firefighters.

To satisfy the grant requirement, Sugar Land recently signed an agreement with Fort Bend County, becoming part of the county and regional hazardous materials response plan.

"The implementation of the HAZMAT team is an example of how communities have used Homeland Security grant funding to successfully improve the local community emergency response and capability," said Sugar Land Fire Chief Dannie Smith.

Lessons Learned Using Reverse 9-1-1 Notification

Hurricane Rita offered the first opportunity for Sugar Land to use its new emergency notification system, Network Emergency Warning System or N.E.W.S.

"Just as residents call 9-1-1 for emergencies, the City can utilize N.E.W.S. to call residents and businesses," said Richard Gaston, Sugar Land's emergency management coordinator.

The reverse 9-1-1 emergency notification system automatically calls residents' telephone numbers to deliver prerecorded City messages tailored to a particular situation. The greater Harris County 9-1-1- Emergency Network administers the program.

Prior to hurricane landfall, Sugar Land sent two reverse 9-1-1 messages to

residents. In addition to storm-related information, additional messages were delivered about where disabled or elderly with special needs could call to be checked on after the storm and about trash collection scheduling.

"Hurricane information changed quickly. Sugar Land residents received this time-sensitive information very late as we were cued behind the City of Houston's message to its residents," said Gaston.

"We realize this could have been confusing. We are working to improve future delivery of this important communication tool."

Gaston said the system should save time and staffing in emergency situations, allowing the City to simultaneously

contact neighborhoods and businesses in a geographically defined area and notify them to shelter in place or to take other emergency measures.

"N.E.W.S. greatly enhances our community notification abilities. We can target a city block or the entire city. We can call people for street flooding, man-made hazards, chemical spills on the freeway and more."

N.E.W.S. can place more than 1,150 calls simultaneously. The system does not call cellular telephone numbers but will call unlisted phone numbers. The City is billed only when the system is used, making it cost-effective.



Tree Trimming Requirements Improve Community Access

Changes to Sugar Land's tree trimming ordinance require residents to trim tree branches to certain heights to ensure public safety by January 2007.

Sugar Land City Council recently approved tree trimming requirements that address public safety concerns in the City's right-of-way. By January 2007, residents will be required to trim trees affecting public rights-of-way to certain heights:

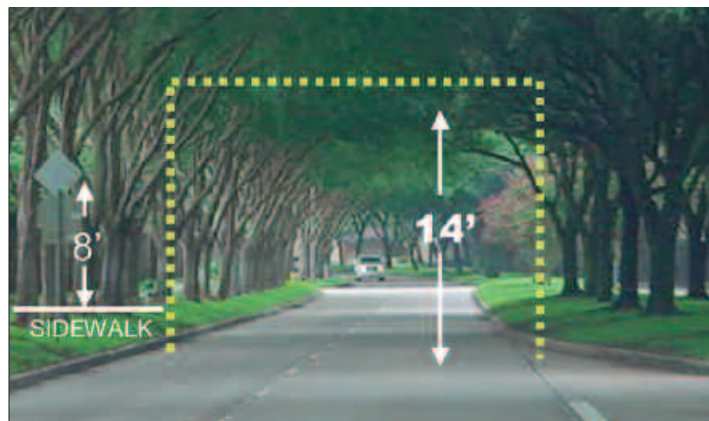
- Where the tree overhangs a residential street (less heavy truck traffic), there must be a clear space under the tree that is 12 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.
- Where the tree overhangs a nonresidential street (occasional semi-trailer traffic), there must be a clear space under the tree that is 14 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.

The new ordinance will make sure that there is proper clearance for large vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks to safely navigate City streets.

Removal of tree branches to certain heights also will help ensure that traffic safety devices — such as stop signs, traffic signals, incident management cameras and street signs — are visible from roadways.

An extensive grace period will be provided until January 2007. During this time, the City looks forward to working with residents to make sure everyone understands the ordinance, its purpose and requirements. Information will be provided through Sugar Land's communication venues, such as this newsletter, SLtv 16, E-News and www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Call 281-275-2450 with questions or concerns.



Nonresidential Tree Trimming Heights



Residential Tree Trimming Heights

Help Lower Your Water/Wastewater Bill

Sugar Land's wastewater cap offers utility customers a cost-effective way to save on their water/wastewater bill.

Residential wastewater charges are based on the average water consumption for three consecutive months between November and February, depending on individual households' billing cycle. This average consumption serves as the cap for wastewater charges during the remaining months of the year, regardless of the amount of water used.

The cap is calculated between November and February because more water typically is used within the home and less water is used outdoors, resulting in a more accurate household wastewater use.

To ensure a low wastewater cap, repair leaky toilets or faucets immediately and minimize outdoor water use.

For further information on the City's wastewater cap billing method, call 281-275-2750 or visit www.sugarlandtx.gov.

City of Sugar Land Recycling Center

Open 24 hours,
7 days a week
113 Gillingham Lane
281-275-2450

Accepted Items

Paper and cardboard items
(no pizza boxes)
Brown and clear glass
(no lids or foil labels)

Tires
(maximum of 4, no rims)
Drop off at 111 Gillingham Lane
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Help Improve Our Air Quality

Clean air is an important part of a healthy environment. Residents can help reduce air emissions in our community by practicing the following measures:

- Combine errands into one trip.
- Schedule and perform regular automobile service and maintenance.
- Fill your gas tank during cooler evening hours to reduce evaporation. Avoid spilling gas, and don't "top off" the tank.
- Save energy by turning off lights and appliances when you leave a room.
- Reduce your consumption of air conditioning and heating resources (if possible), and schedule regular inspections of your air conditioning and heating systems.
- Buy environmentally friendly ENERGY STAR products.
- Recycle and reuse materials in order to conserve energy and reduce production emissions.
- Use water-based paints, and paint with a brush, not a sprayer.
- Perform regular maintenance of lawn equipment, and reduce lawn-mowing time.
- Carpool, walk or ride a bike.

Residential Solid Waste News

Some changes to residential solid waste and recycling service recently have taken place. Call the Solid Waste Division at 281-275-2450 with any questions or concerns about these changes or if you have a problem with your solid waste service. We will try to solve the problem as quickly as possible.

BFI, the City's solid waste and recycling contractor, is changing its name to Allied Waste. BFI has been a subsidiary of Allied Waste since 1999 but had kept the name to maintain local identity. When you see the new name on the side of the garbage trucks, be assured that it is the same company and current services have remained unchanged.

Allied Waste began new residential solid waste collection routes on Sept. 1 to accommodate City growth and improve the current service level. The new routes affect the time but not the day of pickup in Sugar Land. City code requires that residents must place garbage at the curb by 7 a.m. the day of collection to guarantee pickup. Allied Waste has from 7 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. to collect garbage.

As part of the BFI residential solid waste contract signed on June 17, 2003, the City agreed to raise the cost of residential solid waste pickup from \$10.70 to \$11.57 on Oct. 1, 2005. The rate will remain the same through the end of the current contract on Sept. 30, 2008. This change will appear on October utility bills.

All Sugar Land Residents Now Call 281-275-2450 for Water and Wastewater Services

As of Oct. 1, water or wastewater service concerns should be directed to the City. Public Works responds to these concerns 24 hours a day. Call 281-275-2450 any time. After normal business hours, emergency requests for service will be directed to on-call personnel.

For utility billing questions, call the Revenue Department at 281-275-2750.



Halloween Brings Frighteningly Good Fun



Boo Bash
Saturday, Oct. 29
 5 to 9 p.m.
Sugar Land
Community Center

Sugar Land's annual Boo Bash features games, refreshments and trick-or-treating in a haunted, but humorous, setting.

Costume contests for children and adults begin at 5:30 p.m. The top three winners in each category will receive prizes donated by local merchants.

The fun also includes a special game room for children ages five and younger.

Admission is free with minimal charges for game participation and food.

Senior Monster Mash
Monday, Oct. 31
 4 to 7 p.m.
Sugar Land
Community Center

Ghosts and goblins will haunt the Senior Monster Mash. Dance the night away to the ghoulish sounds of the Johnny Dyson Band.

Celebrate the evening by entering the costume and best-decorated scarecrow contests.



December Events Create Holiday Cheer

Christmas Tree Lighting
Thursday, Dec. 1
 5 to 8 p.m. (lighting planned for 7:30 p.m.)
Sugar Land Town Square

Holiday spirit comes to the heart of the City as thousands of twinkling lights brighten a Christmas Tree in Town Square. Local high school bands, choirs and community groups will

serenade as kids of all ages play in the snow and visit with Santa Claus.

Share Your Holiday Food Drive
Wednesday, Dec. 7
 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sugar Land
Community Center
 Help a needy neighbor by donating nonperishable food

and baby items. Cash donations and checks made payable to the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry will also be accepted. All donations stay in the Fort Bend area.

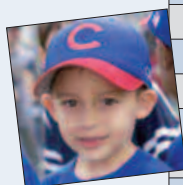
Senior Holiday Gala
Thursday, Dec. 8
 Noon to 3 p.m.
Sugar Land

Community Center
 The highlight of the senior social season, this free event offers a great luncheon and dancing, or just listening, to the Johnny Dyson Band. Santa will stop by for a visit. Reservations are required. The reservation deadline is Dec. 2. Guests are asked to bring nonperishable food items for local food banks.

Call 281-275-2885 or stop by the Parks and Recreation Department at 200 Matlage Way for more information on these events.

Get in the Game with Sugar Land Sports

Many youth and adult sports associations compete at Sugar Land facilities. To find out more, please visit these Web sites:



First Colony Little League	www.fc11.net
First Colony Soccer	www.firstcolonyssoccer.com
First Colony Youth Basketball Association	www.fcyba.com
Fort Bend Adult Soccer Association	www.fbasa.com
Fun, Fair, Positive Soccer	www.ffps.org
Greater Sugar Land Pony Baseball	www.gslpony.com
Men's Flag Football	www.theparc.org/Default.aspx?tabid=250687
Sugar Land Cowboy Football	www.sugarlandcowboys.org
Sugar Land Girls Softball Association	eteamz.active.com/slgsa
Sugar Land Little League	www.slll.org
Sugar Land Soccer Club	www.sugarlandsoccer.org

Lifelong learning opportunities are for everyone!



Learn something new or hone your current skills with these classes.



Classes without specific dates are ongoing.

Call Parks and Recreation at 281-275-2885 for all the details.

Tai Chi

When: Monday & Wednesday, 9-10 a.m., Beginner; 11-10 a.m., Intermediate
Wednesday, 7-8 p.m., Beginner

Where: Sugar Land Community Center

Ages: 14-Adult

Fee: Resident: \$7 per class
Nonresident: \$8.75 per class

Jazzercise

When: Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:40 p.m.
Tuesday: 5:40 p.m.
Thursday: 9:30 a.m., 5:40 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m., 9 a.m.

Where: First Colony Community Center

For more info:
281-437-7157 and
www.fortbendjazz.com

Fencing

Who: Bayou City Fencing Academy instructors

When: Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m.

Where: Sugar Land Community Center

Ages: 10-Adult

Fee: Resident: \$75 per month
Nonresident: \$93.75 per month

Karate

When: Tuesdays through Dec. 6: 6-7 p.m., Beginners; 7-8 p.m., Advanced; 8-9 p.m., Adult

Where: Eldridge Park Community Center

Ages:

Beginner (5-12), Advanced (5-12), Adult (13-70)
Resident: \$40 per 12-week session; \$30 per uniform (required)
Nonresident: \$50 per 12-week session; \$30 per uniform (required)

Fee:



Line Dancing

Fees for all

Line Dancing classes:
Resident: \$15 per month
Nonresident: \$18.75 per month

Who: Marietta Stone

When: Tuesday, 3-5 p.m.

Where: Sugar Land Community Center

Ages: Adult

Who: Laddie De Rouen

When: Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

Where: Sugar Land Community Center

Ages: Adult

Who: Eugenia Kang

When: Wednesday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Sugar Land Community Center

Ages: Adult

Ballet Flamenco

When:
Monday:
4:15-5:15 p.m., Beginner
5:20-6:20 p.m., Intermediate
6:30-7:30 p.m., Intermediate II
Thursday:
5:20 - 6:40 p.m., Intermediate
6:45 - 8:05 p.m., Intermediate II

Where: Lost Creek Community Center

Ages: Beginner (4 years & older), Intermediate (5 years & older), Intermediate II (10 years & older)

Fee:
Resident:
Beginner - \$35 per month (1 session per week);
Intermediate & Intermediate II \$70 per month (2 sessions per week)
Nonresident:
Beginner - \$43.75 per month (1 session per week);
Intermediate & Intermediate II - \$87.50 per month (2 sessions per week)

Dog Obedience

Who: Beverly Hebert

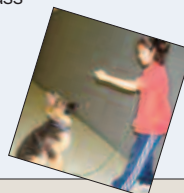
When: Tuesday (Nov. 8 - Dec. 13): 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Puppy Preschool and Basic I; 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Basic II

Where: Sugar Land Community Center

Ages:

16-Adult
Resident: \$85 per class
Nonresident: \$106.25 per class

Fee:



Yoga

Fees for all Yoga classes:

Resident: \$40 twice a week per month, \$25 once a week per month
Nonresident: \$50 twice a week per month, \$31.25 once a week per month

Fitness Yoga

(more aerobic and at a faster pace)

When: Tuesday & Thursday, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Where: City Park Community Center

Ages: 16-Adult

Hatha Yoga

(classical yoga techniques)

When: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:15-9:15 a.m.

Where: City Park Community Center

Ages: 16-Adult

Prenatal Yoga

(gentle course for the expectant mother)

When: Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Where: City Park Community Center

Ages: 16-Adult

Financial Advising

Looking for some sound financial advice conveniently designed to accommodate your hectic schedule? Courses on college funding, income investing and retirement planning are available for a fee of \$15 per session. Call 281-275-2885 to schedule an appointment that works for you.



CALENDAR

	DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
NOVEMBER	1, 15	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	8	Parks Board	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	8	Planning & Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	10	District 2 Town Hall	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	24	Thanksgiving Day * City Offices Closed * No Solid Waste Collection		
	25	City Offices Closed * Thursday's Solid Waste Collection		
	26	Friday's Solid Waste Collection		
DECEMBER	1	Christmas Tree Lighting	5 – 8 p.m. (lighting planned for 7:30 p.m.)	Town Square Plaza
	6, 20	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	7	Share Your Holiday Food Drive	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	8	Senior Holiday Gala	Noon – 3 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	13	Parks Board	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	13	Planning & Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	26	City Offices Closed * Regular Solid Waste Collection		

City of Sugar Land
P. O. Box 110
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110



**City of Sugar Land offices
will be closed Nov. 24-25 for
Thanksgiving Day. See
calendar above for solid
waste collection schedule.**

PRST STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUGAR LAND, TX.
Permit No. 8

POSTAL CUSTOMER